
OPEN SPACE ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES

Wednesday, May 8, 2019, 3:00 P.M.

City 1 Building (City Hall), 300 N. Campbell

First Floor, City Council Chambers

Members Present: 7

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart, Charles Stapler, Alyssa Benavides Cervantes, Dr. Rebecca Escamilla, Bob Geyer, Patricia White, and Joanne Burt

Members Absent: 1

Vice-Chairman Don Baumgardt

Vacancy: 1

District 5

Planning & Inspections Department – Planning

Kevin Smith, Assistant Director – Planning, Jeff Howell, Lead Planner; Nelson Ortiz, Lead Planner; Harrison Plourde, Senior Planner, Karina Brasgalla, Senior Planner

Other City Staff Present/Other Presenters

Roberta Brito, Assistant City Attorney, City Attorney's Office; Jorge Castillo, Open Space, Trails & Parks Coordinator, Parks & Recreation

Members of the public: 1

Maryflor Garcia, Education & Volunteer Coordinator, Frontera Land Alliance

Establish a Quorum

A quorum of the Open Space Advisory Board was present.

Meeting Called to Order

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart called the meeting to order at 3:08 p.m.

Time Limits for Information Presentations:

There is a 15 minute time limit for presentations, with additional time granted at the discretion of the presiding officer. This limitation is applicable only to the presentation itself and does not include discussion and action elements of an item.

Call to the Public (items not listed on the Agenda:

Members of the public will be allowed 3 minutes to present, with additional time granted at the discretion of the presiding officer.

Maryflor Garcia, Frontera Land Alliance made remarks.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart and Board Members Geyer, Alyssa Cervantes, Charles Stapler made remarks regarding conservation easements

Roberta Brito, attorney, responded to comments and questions from Board Members regarding conservation easements.

Ms. Garcia commented on Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart's request to do a more in-depth presentation regarding conservation easements. She will prepare a presentation for Board Members at the June 5th OSAB meeting.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Stapler, seconded by Ms. White AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO PUT MS. GARCIA'S PRESENTATION ON THE JUNE 5TH OSAB AGENDA.

REGULAR AGENDA

1. Discussion and Action: Changes to the Agenda

Per Robert's Rules of Order, Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart explained, the agenda is not complete until it is accepted by the Board. At this time, she requested three additional agenda items be included as part of this agenda:

1. The current balances of the Quality of Life for Open Space paved trails and trailheads and the fund balance for the 10% Stormwater;
2. What commitments for the above funds have been made to Quality of Life and 10% Stormwater funds; and
3. Readdress the status of the OSAB web page or website

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Stapler, seconded by Mr. Geyer AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO APPROVE THAT CHANGES TO THE AGENDA.

Not present for the vote: Ms. White and Ms. Burt

After the vote, Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart explained staff will provide the following information:

1. Current balances on the Quality of Life Open Space monies, paved trails and trailheads monies, and the 10% Stormwater funds:
2. Along with that the Board needs to know the commitments that have been made for Quality of Life funds and the 10% Stormwater funds.
3. What has happened and what is continuing to go on as far as the Open Space Advisory Board web page and website.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart explained she has requested staff provide that information to the Board at today's meeting. If staff cannot provide that information then the item could be postponed to the next OSAB meeting.

2. Discussion and Action: Approval of the Minutes for March 13, 2019.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart asked Board Members if they had any additions, corrections and/or revisions to the minutes.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart commented on the format of the motion language following the Closed Session agenda item.

Ms. Braggalla explained the design of the motion language to include the capital letters, blue and green bold lettering was to assist Board Members in reading the proposed language revisions from Board Members Ms. Burt and Mr. Geyer.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Stapler, seconded by Ms. Benavides AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO ACCEPT THE MINUTES AS WRITTEN.

Not present for the vote: Ms. White

3. Information and Discussion: Quarterly report from the Planning Division, Subdivisions Section, regarding land studies and plats approved in the Mountain and Hillside Development Areas pursuant to City Code Section 2.22.050 (B) (2). **Contact:** Nelson Ortiz, ortiznx@elpasotexas.gov
POSTPONED FROM APRIL 10

Nelson Ortiz gave a quarterly report presentation covering subdivision applications approved by the City Plan Commission for the first three months of 2019. There are a total of seven subdivisions all within the Hillside Development Area. He responded to comments and questions from Board Members.

4. Information and Discussion: Quarterly report of pending OSAB motions.

Contact: Jeff Howell, howelljb@elpasotexas.gov

Jeff Howell gave a presentation and responded to comments and questions from Board Members.

Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart and Board Members Stapler, Geyer and Burt made remarks.

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Stapler, seconded by Ms. Burt AND UNANIMOUSLY CARRIED TO HAVE THE CHAIRWOMAN PRESENT AT THE NEXT CITY COUNCIL MEETING, DURING CALL TO THE PUBLIC, THE OSAB RESOLUTION REGARDING THE MOUNTAIN TO RIVER TRAIL.

ADDITIONAL AGENDA ITEMS REQUESTED BY THE CHAIRWOMAN

At this time, Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart asked if staff were available to address the three additional agenda items as requested.

Karina Brascalla stated there were no staff members that could speak on the three additional agenda items as requested. Ms. Brascalla will include the three additional agenda items on the June 5th OSAB meeting agenda. Ms. Brascalla added there is an agenda item scheduled for the June 5th OSAB meeting agenda pertaining to the quarterly report on the Quality of Life Bond Funds and the 10% Stormwater Funds. Furthermore, regarding any outstanding commitments for the Quality of Life Bond Funds and the 10% Stormwater Funds, that information will be included in the quarterly report.

Ms. Brascalla explained there is an existing OSAB web page within the Parks and Recreation website located at <http://www.elpasotexas.gov/parks-and-recreation/open-space>.

Ms. Burt commented on the possibility of the city creating an OSAB Facebook page with a link showing hike and bike trails.

Ms. Brascalla explained that none of the City's Boards or Commissions have Facebook pages.

Within the City's "Your City in 5" YouTube website, Chairwoman Dr. Sharon Miles-Bonart would like to see something about "Your Mountains" and what the OSAB does and what is available as far as open space, not just on the west side of town but also throughout the city.

Ms. Braggalla responded something of that nature would have to go through the City's Public Information Office or through the City Council authorizing the City Manager to have staff be directed to explore those options.

Ms. Brito commented.

Ms. Alyssa Benavides Cervantes also commented.

CLOSED SESSION

FOR THE RECORD

The Open Space Advisory Board of the City of El Paso may retire into CLOSED SESSION pursuant to Section 3.5A of the El Paso City Charter and the Texas Government Code, Chapter 551, Subchapter D, to discuss any of the items on this agenda, consistent with the terms of the Open Meetings Act. The Open Space Advisory Board will return to open session to take any final action.

SECTION 551.071 CONSULTATION WITH ATTORNEY
SECTION 551.072 DELIBERATION REGARDING REAL PROPERTY
SECTION 551.073 DELIBERATION REGARDING PROSPECTIVE GIFTS
SECTION 551.074 PERSONNEL MATTERS
SECTION 551.076 DELIBERATION REGARDING SECURITY DEVICES
SECTION 551.087 DELIBERATION REGARDING ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT NEGOTIATIONS

There was no Closed Session.

5. Adjournment

MOTION:

Motion made by Mr. Stapler, seconded by Ms. Benavides Cervantes TO ADJOURN AT 4:09 P.M.